

**DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY
AIR QUALITY DIVISION
ACTIVITY REPORT: On-site Inspection**

N304261630

FACILITY: GRAND RAPIDS FOAM TECHNOLOGIES		SRN / ID: N3042
LOCATION: 1700 Alpine Ave NW, GRAND RAPIDS		DISTRICT: Grand Rapids
CITY: GRAND RAPIDS		COUNTY: KENT
CONTACT: Kurt Cleghorn , Plant Manager		ACTIVITY DATE: 12/09/2021
STAFF: Michael Cox	COMPLIANCE STATUS: Compliance	SOURCE CLASS: MINOR
SUBJECT: Scheduled Unannounced Inspection		
RESOLVED COMPLAINTS:		

Air Quality Division (AQD) staff Michael Cox (MTC) arrived at the Grand Rapids Foam Technologies (GRFT) facility located at 1700 Alpine Ave NW, Grand Rapids, MI at approximately 1:00 pm on December 9, 2021, to complete a scheduled unannounced inspection. Prior to entering the facility, offsite odor evaluations and visible emission observations were completed. No odors or visible emissions were noted from the facility.

Facility Description:

Grand Rapids Foam Technologies (GRFT) is a manufacturer of covered foam seats, hospital mattresses, and other foam parts. The primary operations at the facility are the CNC type cutting of blocks (buns) of polyurethane foam, several adhesive booths, assembly operations, which includes sewing and attaching of material covers. This facility is currently unpermitted.

Compliance Evaluation:

Upon entering the site, AQD staff MTC met with Mr. Kurt Cleghorn, Plant Manager, who provided a walk-through of the site, answered site specific questions, and provided records.

The polyurethane foam arrives at the facility in large blocks (buns), that are then cut to shape using CNC machining operations. These operations do not create particulate matter and are not controlled. The pieces left over from the cutting operations are placed into a compactor and are then sold to a third party. Several CNC machines were observed during the site visit but were not in operation.

The adhesive operations uses one type of adhesive. The purpose of the adhesive is to affix separate pieces of foam together. The adhesive is water-based and has a VOC content of 0.075 lb/gal. Due to the VOC content of the adhesive, the facility is keeping records to support utilizing the Rule 290(2)(a)(i) exemption from Rule 201 permitting. GRFT has two adhesive stations which are centrally located within the building. The adhesive stations utilize high pressure low volume spray guns which

are gravity fed from an adhesive tote. Dry filters were noted to be in place and are changed on an as needed basis. Records of VOC emissions from the adhesive stations were requested for the time period of November 2020 through November 2021. The highest monthly VOC emissions occurred during the months of December 2020 and August 2021 when 121.5 pounds of VOC was emitted. Based on the review of the records provided the adhesive station is exempt from Rule 201 permitting under Rule 290(2)(a)(i).

The facility also has a natural gas fired boiler that is currently used for heating the building that was installed on October 23, 1955. The boiler is rated at 6.9 MMBtu and is exempt from Rule 201 permitting requirements under Rule 282(2)(b)(i).

Based on observations made at the time of the inspection and the records provided and reviewed, GRFT appears to be correctly utilizing Rule 201 exemptions and is complying with all applicable Air Quality rules and regulations.

NAME Michael T. Cox

DATE 1/27/2022

SUPERVISOR HH